UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

HAWAII INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
HONOLULU, HAWAIS

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'TROPIC LALO' PASPALUM

"he United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the Hawaii Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii, announce.-the release of 'Tropic Lalo' **paspalum,** Paspalum hieronymii Hack. This is the first cultivar of this species to be released in the United States.

'Tropic Lalo' is native to Brazil. It was tested in Hawaii under the numbers PI-310108 and HA-3131.

'Tropic Lalo' is a perennial, rapid-spreading, low-growing, stoloniferous grass. It normally grows to a height of about 12 in (30 cm). Stems are abundant, prostrate, and medium sized. The stolons or runners frequently root at the nodes to form a dense, sod-like cover. The abundant, soft, well-distributed leaves are linear in shape, approximately 3 to 8 in (7.5 to 20 *cm)* long by ½ in (1.25 cm) wide. The flowering stems are usually semierect and about 12 in (30 cm) high. The seed heads contain 5 to 15 spreading racemes, 1 to 3 in (2.5 to 7.5 cm) long. Seed viability in Hawaii has been low at 1 to 2 percent.

'Tropic Lalo' was tested and developed primarily as a ground cover for erosion control in orchards, waterways, roadsides, and other erosion-prone areas. It is a low-maintenance plant that has dense growth which crowds out weeds and requires infrequent mowing. When mowed, it becomes mat-like. Its stolons are tough and will tolerate heavy use from equipment and foot traffic.

'Tropic Lalo' is adapted to elevations ranging from sea level to over 3,000 ft (900 m) in Hawaii. It will grow in areas with annual rainfall in excess of 40 in (1,015 mm) to over 100 in (2,500 mm). It is adapted to a wide variety of soils ranging from coarse to fine textured and at pH levels of acid to moderately alkaline. It is somewhat tolerant to low fertility soils but responds favorably to nitrogen, either from applied fertilizer or associated legumes.

Foundation quality plant materials of 'Tropic Lalo' will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service's Plant Materials Center, Hoolehua, Molokai, Hawaii. Vegetative material is available to commercial producers and others for establishing their production fields.

Thomas N. Shiflet, Director
Ecological Sciences
Technology Development and Application
Soil Conservation Service, USDA
Washington, D.C.

3/12/84
Date

Francis C.H. Lum, State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service, USDA
Honolulu, Hawaii

2/13/84
Date

Noel P. Kefford, Director
Hawaii Institute of Tropical
Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 8, 1984
Date